

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims replaces all previous listings of claims in this application. Please cancel claims 1, 5-9, 11, and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) The ~~polyamide-process~~ as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 17, where the unbranched monocarboxylic acid has the formula $\text{HO} - (\text{CH}_2)_5 - \text{COOH}$.
- 4-12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently amended) The ~~polyamide-process~~ as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 17, ~~comprising wherein the monomeric or oligomeric units of an~~ are selected from the group consisting of arylaliphatic lactam or and aliphatic lactam, where the polyamide is end-capped with an unbranched C₄-C₁₅ alkane with at least one terminal hydroxyl group.
14. (Currently amended) The ~~polyamide of claim 13~~ process as claimed in claim 13, where the monomeric or oligomeric units are selected from the group consisting of enantholactam, undecanolactam, ~~dodecanolactam~~ dodecanolactam, and caprolactam.
15. (Currently amended) The ~~polyamide of claim 13~~ process as claimed in claim 13, where the monomeric or oligomeric units are based on caprolactam and the polyamide is end-capped by the reaction of 6-hydroxycaproic acid.
16. (Currently amended) The ~~polyamide of claim 15 in combination with~~ process as claimed in claim 17, further comprising carrying out the polymerizing in the presence of an inorganic or organic pigment.
17. (Currently amended) The ~~polyamide as claimed in claim 1~~ prepared by a process
A process for preparing a polyamide comprising:

providing ~~monomers or oligomers~~ monomeric or oligomeric units selected from ~~an the~~ group consisting of arylaliphatic ~~or~~ lactam, aliphatic lactam, aminocarboxylic acids ~~or~~ acid, and aminocarbonitriles aminocarbonitrile;

providing an unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid having ~~at least one terminal hydroxyl group~~ the formula HO - (CH₂)_n - COOH, wherein n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, or 15; and

polymerizing the ~~monomer or the oligomers~~ monomeric or oligomeric units in the presence of the unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid to provide a polyamide that is end-capped with an unbranched alkane having at least one terminal hydroxyl group,

wherein the unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid is present in the range from 0.001 to 2 mol%, based on 1 mole of amide groups of the polyamide.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~polyamide of claim 17~~ process as claimed in claim 17, where the monomeric or oligomeric units are based on caprolactam and the unbranched alkanemonocarboxylic acid is 6-hydroxycaproic acid.